

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Council Member Richard Paoletto Jr., Co-chair; Council Member Richard Bonney, Co-Chair; Council Member Warren Blunt; Council Member Martin McCarthy; Council Member Lydia Martinez

OTHER: Linda Grace, Republican Registrar of Voters; Democratic Registrar of Voters Sandi Ayala; Council Member Susan Brannelly; Council Member Amy Marie Vizzo-Paniccia; Alanna Kabel; Council Member John Olson; Attorney Steven Mednick; Eva Canales; Adam Wood; John Marshall Lee; Gail Solis; Attorney Mark Anastasi, City Council.

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Paoletto called the meeting to order at 6:11 P.M.

31-11: Proposed Resolution Concerning the Appointment of Members of the Charter Revision Commission for the City of Bridgeport.

Mr. Wood came forward and distributed a handout containing the names of the potential nominees for the Charter Revision Commission with brief bios on the candidates. He later distributed copies of a "Resolution Concerning the Establishment and Appointment of a Charter Revision Commission for the City of Bridgeport". The Mayor had reached out far and wide into the community to achieve a partisan balance as well as a representative community balance. All the people listed on the handout are expected to attend the next council meeting and at a special meeting of the Ordinance Committee for a Q&A session. Attorney Anastasi said that the Council Members would be asked to vote at the next council meeting.

A brief discussion about the candidates' biographies followed. Mr. Wood said that there was one unaffiliated voter, two Republican voters, and balance is Democrats. Attorney Anastasi said that there was a major concern about Council Members giving directives to the Commission and identifying the target date for the final report. It is important for the City to have as much participation as possible. Attorney Anastasi said that, after the Committee has addressed the issue of the polling places, they would be asked to reassess.

Attorney Mednick said that it was important to have one foot in each camp and adequate time to deliberate at the conclusion of the process when the report is rendered. Council Member Bonney asked how the selection process was done. Mr. Wood responded that ten people had expressed interest. The selection criteria for how the candidates were selected depended on involvement in the community, desire to serve, a knowledge base that would be conducive for the committee, familiarity with government and representative of the neighborhoods of Bridgeport narrowed the list.

Council Member Paoletto said that the committee would be reconvening the meeting at 5:30 before the Council Meeting and that a public hearing still had to be scheduled. Council Member Brannelly asked which neighborhoods the various candidates came from. Mr. Woods gave a brief outline of the neighborhoods the candidates were from. Mr. Woods will report back to the committee at the reconvened meeting on the 16th. A question was asked about the racial makeup of the committee. Mr. Woods summarized the races of the candidates. A question was asked about the scope of the charter revision. Attorney Mednick said that it is a wide-scope revision. He added that the Council Members could indicate their specific areas of concern. Discussion followed about the details of this. Attorney Anastasi said that there would be an orientation for new Council Members and that these issues would be covered at the orientation.

**** A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ. TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 31-11: PROPOSED RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT UNTIL THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTIN MCCARTHY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

29-11 City Council Provision of Suitable Polling Places in City Council Districts and Definition of Boundaries to be served by each such Polling Place pursuant to Bridgeport Charter, Ch 5, Sec 2(d).

Copies of a map of the Bridgeport polling districts were distributed along with a spreadsheet containing information on the local polling locations. The committee reviewed the data contained within the spreadsheet and map. Council Member Bonney asked why Read School was no longer being used as a polling place. He was told that it was now in District 136. A discussion about the various ballot styles polling locations ensued. It was noted that there had been significant improvements in the chart. The Registrars' office will now be dealing with the States registration system. It may take

more time and effort to interface with the State registration system manually. Ms. Ayala stated that when the Registrars' had gone before the Budget and Appropriations Committee they had requested funding but it is a one-time expense.

Council Member Martinez then came forward and expressed concern about Bridge Academy as it is not handicapped accessible and identified a problem concerning the height of buttons on the school elevators which do not meet state regulations. A lengthy discussion followed about the details. Ms. Ayala stated that this had not previously been a problem. Because of this, they are looking to change the election location to the new Barnum school. It was pointing out that the majority of people who vote at Bridge Academy are not from the nearby senior housing complex.

Mr. Bonney asked how those people who would be voting in a different location would be notified. A master list of all the streets in the city has been created with each state, senate, and local district that they are a part of. A question was asked about the change in the precincts. It was stated that there are two different election cycles that the Registrar's needs to keep in mind, both the local elections, which are odd-year elections, and the State and Federal elections, which are even-year elections. Because of the boundaries and the different district boundaries in place in one time but not at the other time, there is the potential that people would be assigned to different areas and measures have been taken to minimize where they will go to different precincts.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 29-11 CITY COUNCIL PROVISION OF SUITABLE POLLING PLACES IN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES TO BE SERVED BY EACH SUCH POLLING PLACE PURSUANT TO BRIDGEPORT CHARTER, CH 5, SEC 2(D).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Attorney Anastasi reminded everyone that the item needed to be acted on promptly and did not think that time would permit including both items in the reconvened session. He then asked Council Member Martinez if she had considered adopting the current plan until the State changed their position on the Bridge Academy. He stated that he did not believe that the state would change its position within the next week.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY RESCINDED HIS MOTION**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 29-11 CITY COUNCIL PROVISION OF SUITABLE POLLING PLACES IN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES TO BE SERVED BY EACH SUCH POLLING PLACE PURSUANT TO BRIDGEPORT**

CHARTER, CH 5, SEC 2(D). WITH THE MAPS AND VOTING LOCATIONS AS INDICATED BUT TO INVESTIGATE THE REASONS WHY THE STATE MADE ITS DECISION AND IF THIS COULD BE APPEALED.

Attorney Anastasi reminded everyone that changes couldn't be made once an election cycle had already been started. Council Member Paoletto agreed and added that the Council Members have the right to contact their constituents about this issue. He urged Council Member Martinez to look in to this matter.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCCARTHY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Attorney Anastasi said that he had two changes that he wished to be made into the record. Attorney Anastasi indicated that the paragraph that begins 'Now be it therefore resolved,' that on line' 4 after the closing parenthesis after the word 'lot' to get rid of the 'three' and remove the 's' off 'maps'. At the end of the line with the parenthesis with 'other side' so it quotes 'L-grouping areas' to be taken out entirely. Take out entirely to the word 'respectively' in the next line all the way through to 'their'. The words in place of that, in quotes 'precincts for local elections'. The map handed out at the meeting will be titled 'exhibit A' and in the order in which they go, the new map will be 'exhibit B'.

It was stated that copies of the same spreadsheet and map with a different sort order will be made to be distributed at the next meeting.

Council Member Paoletto stated that the second sorted sheet would now be known as 'A-2' and the first as 'A-1'. Attorney Anastasi stated that the amended amendment would state that, for future elections, the amended polling places and precinct lines for the local, State, and Federal legislative districts shall be in accordance with and as presented on the attached accompanying lists entitled 'Bridgeport Master Precincts for Local Elections', and these documents may be maintained in the City Clerks' office.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO AMENDED THE RESOLUTION FOR AGENDA ITEM 29-11 CITY COUNCIL PROVISION OF SUITABLE POLLING PLACES IN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES TO BE SERVED BY EACH SUCH POLLING PLACE PURSUANT TO BRIDGEPORT CHARTER, CH 5, SEC 2(D) WITH THE AMENDED OUTLINED BY ATTORNEY ANASTASI AND SUBMITTED TO THE CITY CLERK.**

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTIN MCCARTHY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM AGENDA ITEM 29-11 CITY COUNCIL PROVISION OF SUITABLE POLLING PLACES IN CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AND DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES TO BE SERVED BY EACH SUCH POLLING PLACE PURSUANT TO BRIDGEPORT CHARTER, CH 5, SEC 2(D) AS AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTIN MCCARTHY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECESS

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL JANUARY 17, 2012 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTIN MCCARTHY.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting recessed at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.